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V.—*Journal of Travels in the Beylik of Tunis.* By Sir Grenville Temple, Bart. MS. pp. 244.

SIR Grenville Temple, who has just returned from a tour through Egypt and some of the states of Barbary, has kindly communicated to us a MS. journal of his excursions through the Regency of Tunis. After carefully examining the ruins of Carthage and other monuments of antiquity in the vicinity of Tunis, he visited the chief towns on the coast of the Regency; and then, proceeding from Gabes across the Sibkah el Ludiah, or *Salt Lake of the Marks*, to Nefsa, which stands on the edge of the great desert, returned to Tunis by a route across the mountains. The numberless stately remains of Roman architecture which still crown every hill and moulder in every valley of the Regency of Tunis, speak more for the energy and civilizing influence of the government of the Cæsars than the greatness of Rome itself. The following description of the remains of the amphitheatre at El Jemm, the ancient Tysdrus, will fully justify this remark—

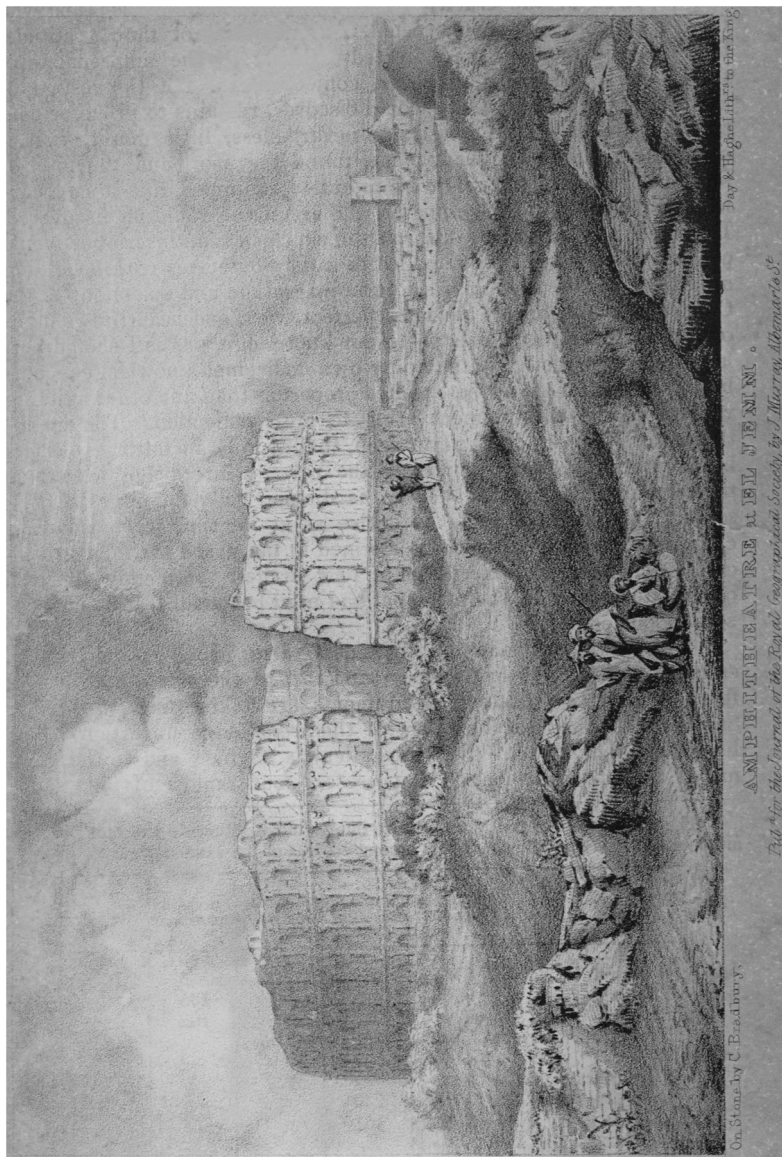
“ Within two miles of El Jemm, the ancient Tysdrus, the land is cultivated and enclosed by hedges of the prickly pear, through an avenue of which we soon after beheld the great amphitheatre towering loftily over the miserable mud hovels of the village, and appearing still more colossal from the lowness of the plain, and smallness of all surrounding objects. Having, on leaving Sfakhus, been told that the Zabataba's palace at El Jemm would be prepared for us, I had sent back the tent from Sidi Salah as an unnecessary incumbrance; this we all now extremely regretted, for the Zabataba's house, which it must be confessed is a name promising well, we found to be nothing more than *one* small room, not over-clean—and the rougher sex were, therefore, obliged to sleep with the horses in the open yard. This, and a few other inconveniences, were matters of no import to me, though they were so to those who had never travelled except in France and Italy; and they combined to form in them a very unfavourable idea of the comforts attendant on a visit into the interior regions of Africa, if we may be allowed thus to designate so short an excursion from its sea-coast. The sheikh was also, it must be confessed, excessively remiss in his duty, and threw us entirely on our own resources and capabilities of obtaining what we stood in need of. I found, however, that those who slept in the open air obtained by far a greater degree of repose than those who occupied the interior, who, tormented by fleas, were unable to obtain even the shortest period of sleep. Immediately after we had dismounted, we proceeded to view the amphitheatre, and to ascertain by inspection what other remains existed of the former *Tysdrus*; the principal of which, and indeed the only one of any consequence, we found to consist in the great extant edifice built in former ages as the spot in which the inhabitants were wont to seek for amusement. Shaw states that it dates its origin from the reign of the Gordians, who were here first recognized as chiefs—

if not by the whole, at least by a great majority—of the vast Roman empire, tired of the cruelty and despotism of Maximinus; and who for this support may have erected, as a memorial of their gratitude, this splendid monument, dedicated entirely to the amusements of their party. All this is, however, conjecture, for not the vestige of an inscription, at least that I could discover, remains to prove or contest the supposition. I entertain, nevertheless, little doubt, that if excavations were judiciously made round the spot, and the interior of the surrounding hovels were minutely examined, the stone bearing the dedication to the emperor who erected it would be discovered. Deprived, however, of the information which such an inscription would convey to us, we are compelled to satisfy ourselves with beholding an edifice which, though yielding in magnitude and splendour to the Coliseum, is still one of the most perfect, vast, and beautiful remains of former times which exists—to our knowledge, or, as I should perhaps more correctly state, to my own individual knowledge—combining in itself more of those united properties than any other building which I can at this moment bring to my recollection. The amphitheatre of Nîmes I have never seen, that of Pola, in Istria, is perfect in its exterior, though completely the reverse interiorly; whilst, on the contrary, the one at Verona is diametrically the opposite, possessing the range of seats as entire as at the time when admiring citizens witnessed the sports performed in the arena for their gratification, but, with the exception of four arches, completely deprived of its exterior façade, the principal and most beautiful feature of these stupendous edifices.

“The length of the amphitheatre of *Tysdrus*, which extends nearly east and west, is 429 by 368 feet; and that of the arena, 238 by 182 feet. These two latter measurements are taken from the inner *existing* wall, the real boundary of the arena being uncertain. The height of the level of the first gallery is 33 feet, and to the summit of the edifice 96 feet.* It possesses four ranges of pillars and

* The following list may perhaps prove interesting, as showing the rank in magnitude which this amphitheatre holds among edifices of the same nature.

	Extreme Length.	Extreme Breadth.	Length of Arena.	Breadth of Arena.	Height.
Coliseum	615½	510	281	176	164
Verona	506	405	247	145	
El Jemm	429	368	238	182	96
Nîmes	430	338			76
Pola	416	337			
Sida (Karamania)	409		125		79
Utica	363	240			
Pæstum	211	151			
Capua					
Pompeii					
Syracuse	300	230	180	100	
Carthage	240	200	150	110	
Thapsus	160	113			



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G. Stone sculp.

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arches, 60 in number in each, or rather in the three lower ones, for the fourth is a pilastade, elevated on a stylobata, with a square window in every third inter-pilaster. The capitals are of that species of the composite order which we see on Diocletian's Pillar at Alexandria, with a slight variation between the second range and those composing the first and third. At each extremity was a grand entrance, but the west one, together with an arch on each side of it, was destroyed, together with the same portion of the whole superstructure, about one hundred years ago, by Muhammed Bey, who thereby wished to prevent the possibility of the amphitheatre being converted into a strong and vast fortress by some tribes of Arabs, then in open revolt against his authority. A very small portion also of the exterior wall of the fourth or upper story remains to this day. The interior of this magnificent building is in a far more dilapidated state than the exterior, which, with the above-mentioned exceptions, may be stated to be in complete preservation; but great part of the vaulted and inclined plane, which supported the seats, the galleries, and the vomitoria, are still left. The galleries and stairs leading to the different stages were supported by arches and vaults, composed, not like the rest of the building, of large *pierres de taille*, but of a mass of small stones and mortar; and they have, consequently, in many places fallen in. Under the surface of the arena, as in those of the Coliseum and Amphitheatre of Capua, are seen passages, and little chambers for containing the wild beasts, as well as square apertures opening upon the arena, up which were raised the lions and tigers, enclosed in boxes made on the principle of the pigeon-traps used at shooting-matches, whose sides, on reaching the summit, being unsupported by the walls of the tunnel, fell to the ground, and, working on the hinges which joined them to the bottom of the box, left the ferocious monsters at once exposed to the view of the spectators.

"The key-stones of the outward arches of the lower order were intended each to have borne some figure sculptured in relief, for on one we see the bust of a female, and on the other the head of a lion; this design was, however, never completed, for on all the others we only see the projecting part of the stone which was to have assumed the shape of different figures or devices. I could discover no inscription on any part of the building, except some in Cuphic and Arabic characters; the one which doubtless existed to commemorate its founder was probably placed over the gate, since destroyed, which faced the town of *Tysdrus* to the west. This town, the foundation of whose walls can distinctly be traced, was built round the spot now occupied by the Marabet of Sidi Ahmed Bejenani, near which are the sub-structures of a very fine temple; and in different directions are seen the trifling remains of other edifices. Numerous columns of cipolino, granite, white and Numidian marble, and brescia corallata, are often discovered by the Arabs, who, cutting them into three or four blocks, send them, for the purpose of being converted into mill-stones, to different parts of the country. I heard that an Arab had not long ago discovered a vase, containing gold and silver coins and

engraved stones ; but from the fear of their being all seized from him, he reburied it, though he has probably taken opportunities gradually, and in small portions, to dispose of its contents. Small fragments of porphyry, giallo antico, serpentino, &c. are found plentifully scattered on the surface of the ground. There is also seen a well-executed statue, in white marble, of a young Roman emperor, but the head and feet are wanting ; and under one of the arches of the amphitheatre is found a draperied statue, also deprived of the head ; for the Arabs, immediately on discovering any of these beautiful specimens of ancient sculpture, actuated by a religious and superstitious feeling, break off and destroy this part of the human figure."

The remarks made by Sir G. Temple, during his journey from Gabes to Tozer and Nefsa, also furnish much curious information respecting a country hitherto but little known ; but as the entire Journal will shortly appear, we shall make no further extracts. We have been much gratified by the inspection of about eighty fine drawings of scenery and antiquities, with which it is illustrated.

VI.—*View of the Origin and Migrations of the Polynesian Nation ; demonstrating their ancient Discovery and Progressive Settlement of the Continent of America.* By John Dunmore Lang, D.D. London, 1834, 12mo. pp. 256.

THE object of this work is fully explained in its title ; and the argument, apart from the observations and examples by which its several steps are illustrated, begins with proving the Polynesians to be themselves Indo-Chinese, thus :—

" I. The distinction of caste—the most ancient and remarkable feature of Asiatic society—prevails to a great extent in the South Sea islands. In Tahiti, this distinction was formerly carried to so ridiculous an extent in the case of the royal family—all the members of which were regarded as *sacred* in the highest Tahitian sense of the word—that whatever any of the princes of the blood happened to touch became sacred also. If the king entered a house, the owner had to abandon it forthwith. If he walked on a footpath, it was death for a plebeian to walk on it afterwards. In the Friendly Islands, the several castes are still better defined ; and the Brahmin, or priestly caste, ranks highest, insomuch that the Grand Lama of these islands, the Tooi Tonga, as he is called, takes precedence even of the king. In New Zealand, indeed, the distinction of caste does not prevail. *There* every man is either a Rangatira, i. e. a *gentleman*, who knows no superior, and who bows to no authority ; or a miserable slave, who holds, or who loses, his life at the mere caprice of his master. The slave, however, is not inferior in birth to the master. He has only become inferior through the fortune of war.